



Davis

Son of a Sharecropper
Swift Davis, Sr.

As I explained in the beginning of this writing, I am not a literacy expert, and I know you will find mistakes, errors, etc. I did not edit or have this book edited. I wanted it as is, in my own words, and writings. I didn't want anyone changing anything. Maybe our children's children, children, a hundred years from now may look upon this writing as being primitive as I did when reading the words of my ancestors during my research .If so they will have the knowledge of the education level of their ancestors as I did, and I think that is a good thing.

I had blank pages inserted in front and back of the book for your, Comments, Notations, and Corrections, for your future generations.

I only wished I had more input from my relatives as to family photo's and short stories of their lives.

I sincerely hope you won't be too disappointed.

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Swift Arthur Davis Sr.
Son of Haskel Dunn Davis
And Annie Pearson.
Born Jan. 14th 1921

Preface

Genealogy How Intriguing

It was some time after the death of my father, that succumbed to the disease that had plagued my father and mother and followed down through heredity and the loss of my last surviving sibling on February 24th, 1996 that I had realized in deep anxiety and in a deep mode of depression that I was left alone and had only the fond memories of a very close knit and loving family. With this said, it was my aspiration and anticipation to do a study and research with all fulmination to find and display the mysteries and unknowns of my family ancestral history. Never having heard my father or mother mention their parents or grandparents during their sparsely conversations I wanted to know, who am I? Where did I come from, who was my grandparents, my great grandparents. I knew very little and it would certainly be a full chore, demanding time and patients.

Therefore the purpose of this study is to research the past and find out the past history of my mother, father their relatives and ancestors. Aside from the US Census reports, birth certificate, marriage certificate and death certificate stored away in courthouses there just wasn't much information available other than land deeds, tax records and criminal court preceding. The different libraries and the Mormon's church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints genealogy was much beneficial. I have trampled through countless number of cemeteries, talk to scores of relatives and individuals, visited numerous state and county courthouses, haunted scores of libraries and archives, research land deeds and read countless books about history and research methodology.

Many of my family relatives, I must confess and remember in my enthusiasm to gather information, not everyone was excited about digging in the family past as I was and was hesitant to share family stories, especially if there are scandals in the family closet.

First let me explain I am not a literacy expert, My desire is and was to just concentrate on writing a competent well documented family and ancestral research, not a literacy masterpiece.

Therefore, In writing our family history I am hoping to inspire and empower our present living and future grandchildren to preserve parts of their life for themselves and our future generation. You should preserve parts of your life, do it for yourself, do it for your children and do it for those of the future.

Your life is interesting, we often fail to give importance to our own life story, however

how small it may be, We are each an integral element in a continuing saga of our ancestors and descendants histories, the connector that ties the past and future together. The one that gives continuity to our family's traditions and ties. Its up to you to preserve and share parts of your life. No one else can record and remember your actions, thoughts and feelings as accurately as you can. While being remembered in your family history is important, Being remembered in their hearts is more so.

I knew from memory of my adolescent years, in the beginning of my research, I would not find all to be expected, but to be charitable, not judgmental. I knew I would find Scandals, secrets or things our ancestors thought was scandalous, but today, hardly would raise an eyebrow, I knew I would find they made mistakes, they had weaknesses and strengths, I knew I would find they had hard times and good times.

Most of all I knew I would find they were human, they were not perfect people but religious people, I was curious in seeking the knowledge of their way of life and what made up the very fabric of their character. I found They lived their lives of bare necessities.

During my research, I regrettably found some of us is descended from relatives who were illiterate, by my memory, some of our ancestors and relatives could not write and didn't know how their names were spelled, they only knew how to pronounce their names as spoken by their families and neighbors. I found they would sign an official document by making their mark as it was called by making an [X] and witnessed by someone in an official capacity. This made it very difficult in my research, researching names of families whereby census takers spelled family members names from sound of those who couldn't spell their names, in lieu of the actual spelling.

With comparison and reasoning I made my conclusion with integrity and fore thought and with the experience to recognize the implication involved and after examining everything available I drew my conclusion based on facts with simple reasoning to connect a missing link with absolute certainty.

In afterthought, I regret that I didn't take the opportunity to consult with my family members during their lifetime. My inquisitiveness into their past and their knowledge of our relatives and ancestors would not have been so doubtful, vain and complicated in some areas.

I missed the greatest opportunity during my adolescent years to pride into the past and private lives of my parents. Don't let this happen to you!, Many questions have gone unanswered and lost forever for both the maternal and paternal side of the Davis Family.

In my childhood, family reunions was a tradition, in recent years, the family reunion tradition has waned, a great activity for a tremendous amount and source for family information. This today is much regrettable that I didn't take that opportunity.

To my future generation I strongly recommend that you do everything in your power to revive this forgotten festivity. A family reunion is a great way for young and old to come together, at least for a day. People tell stories and can get a much better sense of where and from whom they have come.

From a would be family historian, a reunion is a wonderful time to interview, photograph and or film family members. This is an opportunity I missed for many years during our family reunions that was held on the South Edisto River, both in my adolescent years and at my home for many years on the Edisto River and hi-way 17A in South Carolina, not knowing how important it was at the time and how useful that information could have been during my family research.

In summation much more went into this research than found, however it is with great pleasure that I, with the best of my ability and knowledge, had the opportunity, will, and grace to go forward with the interest and intrigue in searching out our Family history. On behalf of my two children, Sandra Faye and Swift [Butch] Davis Jr. I urge them to invoke and inspire our future generation, to further pursue and take interest in their life and times in the contiguity in our family history for the benefit and knowledge, that will be passed on to our future generation.

In memory of Mama and Papa:
Haskel Dunn [H.D.] & Annie Pearson Davis.